

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 as follows (see the accompanying "marked up" version pursuant to §1.121):

1. (Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

a liquid permeable surface layer;

a backing sheet; and

an absorbent layer interposed between said surface layer and said backing sheet,

said surface layer including: a porous film having a plurality of through holes; and a fibrous layer disposed on the liquid-receiving face of said porous film, said fibrous layer being of a plurality of strips extending in parallel and completely separate from each other at predetermined spacing intervals, each strip of said fibrous layer being fixed to said porous film at spaced fixing portions, so that said porous film is exposed between adjacent strips of said fibrous layer.

12. (New) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein each strip of said fibrous layer is a bundle of continuous filaments opened from a tow or a bundle of thin strips cut out from a non-woven fabric.